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Nation

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editorial

Canada's double-cross at the UN

by Will Nicholls

The Canadian government's recent vote against the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was a surprise move and is one that will cost Canada dearly.

Perhaps I better explain my thinking. Canada has a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council. It was awarded one because of its stances on human rights and its work as peacekeepers and relief workers around the world.

Canada, under a different government, has also for the past two-and-half years lead the charge on the declaration itself. The Canadian government lobbied to make some changes but have said it was something that was needed.

Amoung those they lobbied were indigenous peoples who had no hope. They were tortured, murdered and lived in squalor while the wealth of their traditional lands was systematically looted. Then along comes Canada bringing hope to hundreds of different types of indigenous peoples.

Countries rallied around the Canadian banner held so high and proud. Not everyone was happy with changes to the original wording but they understood compromise would be needed to pass the declaration.

This is perhaps why people feel so betrayed. Canada under the Conservative Party is now seen as a Benedict Arnold by many of the groups that the country, under the Liberals, had requested support from.

An important point to consider is that not only the indigenous peoples are upset but countries such as NAFTA partner Mexico feel betrayed. What of the harm to Canadian's reputation around the world? From being a role model for human rights, the country has quickly toppled off its pedestal. As a result, the average Canadian upon taking vacations around the world may find they no longer receive the same welcome they used to. Many will no doubt not even know why.

For those of you who want to know how the vote played out, only Canada and Russia were against the Declaration. In favour were Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Cameroon, Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Sri Lanka.

Those abstaining included Argentina, Ukraine, Algeria, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Jordan, Philippines and Ghana.

The Declaration will now travel to the United Nations General Assembly for ratification. This means all the countries around the world will vote upon it. It will be up for consideration from October to December.

The Canadian delegation will certainly be working hard to undermine the Declaration between now and then because of our new government's opposition to the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples and the articles on land, territories and natural resources. Canadian First Nations expressed surprise as they said Canada supported collective rights when writing the text.

Perhaps given the fact that Canada was almost alone in going against a Human Rights Declaration, it is time they drop the hypocrisy and resign their seat on the Human Rights Council. This country has proven itself unworthy of such a prestigious position.

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Photo: Will Nicholls

Design: Alexandre Costa

rez notes

Music to my ears

The beat goes on throughout the night, the spirits have been sated by loving subjects, songs that have been passed on for millennia, thoughts that have rung out for generations, tradition remains unbroken...

Then one day, thousands of years after the first primal beats of the chest, Ed Sullivan brought out some dinky looking lads from Liverpool, and the world changed. The beat went on but with a different drummer.

Cultural icons were remade overnight and confusion reigned. Beatniks and hippies were more of a nuisance than social change as this free-living lifestyle became the social norm. Rock and roll spurred musicians and artists to try to make it to the big time.

Meanwhile, in the far north, the AM radio brought in the soothing sounds of the Deep South, and a maverick named Elvis changed the way western music was to sound forever. The hard rock café lifestyles arrived with the shock wave of Cree students coming back from the south with strange-looking pants and hairdos.

Things got so bad that many friends of mine were critical of Rod Stewart's scratchy voice. Don't buy that album, it'll drive you crazy. Just about every reason coming from the older generation to prevent the incoming rush of rock and roll in their home failed. The favoured genre of country seemed to fade from our aural range, forever branding C&W lovers as square folks.

Back home a new inspired sound reached the stages of Eeyou Istchee, most playing good renditions of their favourite bands and songs: the age of the home-spun rock and roll band had begun. Soon, the lead guitar player was next to the seat of God in some fans' eyes and ear-splitting screeching and nasal reverberations of the lead singer drowned out the incessant pounding of broken makeshift drum sets set the stage for live performances in front of real people.

To many local bands, the highest possible level of stardom they would ever attain would be at local music venues or playing at the local watering hole to thirsty patrons. For aspiring Cree musicians, playing in another community in the 1970s and 80s meant that recognition and fame was nearby and itching for some talent scout to see them (no one really knows this but talent scouts live in Hollywood and never come north) and give them some lucrative recording contract.

Some singers did become our icons and some have passed on, like Morley Loon, Bobby Visitor, Ray Spencer and Clarence Louttit. The remaining survivors have made their own Cree style music and will start anew the songs of the past, except to the beat of a more contemporary heart.

Today, songs sung in our own language are normal and as accepted as Eminem and CCR. With modern technology, home-made recording rivals the big labels by producing near-professional digital recordings that sound great and cost little to the artist.

However, becoming well known and selling more recordings become more problematic to the budding Cree idol wannabe's who often rely on hand-delivered recordings. They, in turn, get reprocessed into the inferior MP3 formats and bandied about on the Net until the songs get Kazaa'd to death and never do service to the starving artist.

Such is the life of music today, now forgotten in mere seconds.

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Canada

Innu announce plans to sue Hydro-Québec

by Steve Bonspiel

Seek $11 billion in damages from Crown Corporation, governments

The 4,000-strong Pessamit Innu community has filed an $11 billion lawsuit against Hydro-Québec for "total devastation of culture and way of life."

The Innu, led by Chief Raphael Picard, are outraged at the slow pace of negotiations for compensation after losing access to much of their traditional homeland caused by the construction of 13 hydro-electric dams on their territory over the past five decades.

"They're not looking for a treaty at this point," said André Binette, spokesman for the Quebec band. "What they would like is serious negotiations of specific problems of this particular community."

Binette says the dams are on traditional Innu territory so they would like to negotiate compensation in their particular case.

"Either that or we spend ten years in court and go all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada," Binette told *the Nation*. "That would not only be very costly for all parties, but it would create a lot of economic uncertainty in that particular area of Quebec. At one point I think the government of Quebec will realize that it is to its advantage to negotiate."

Hydro-Québec is readying its defense for the lawsuit, which Binette says should be filed in late August.

> **"Either that or we spend ten years in court and go all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada"**

"We will prepare a defense but we have to wait and see the study that is supposed to be made public at the same time that the request is filed in the Supreme Court," said Marie Archambault, Media Relations Spokesperson for Hydro-Québec. "That study should explain where the amount comes from.

Innu Chief Raphael Picard

What we can see now is there is a significant increase between 1998 and now. The amount requested in 1998 was $500 million."

Binette said that the lawsuit would hopefully right a terrible wrong that has continued for decades.

"To understand the roots of all this you have to go back to the early 1970s when the Cree and the Innu were together in the Quebec Indian Association," he said. "The Cree decided to go to court to stop the James Bay dams being built. That ended up with an out-of-court settlement called the JBNQA in 1975."

The Innu, however, did not go to court, choosing instead to negotiate a treaty. They've been negotiating ever since. "But the Crees went to the courts again and got some results, which was the Paix des Braves in 2002," Binette said.

"The Chief decided that going to court twice paid off for the Cree, but negotiating didn't pay off for the Innu, so he's decided to follow the strategies used successfully by the Crees."

There are a dozen major hydro dams in the band's territory near Baie Comeau, also known as Betsiamites, that supply from a quarter to a third of Quebec's electricity needs.

"The consequences are basically total devastation of traditional culture and way of life," said Binette. "The fact that these rivers were

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Healthy Living

Nourish the body and stimulate the senses with Healthy Living recipes!

Many people in Eeyou Istchee have Diabetes, or know of someone who does. Quite often this can be someone they love. We know that healthier food choices are important, but let's face it, sometimes they can border on boring. Well, not anymore! Each issue of *the Nation* will feature a delicious meal that keeps in mind the importance of health maintenance but does not forget rich and hearty satisfaction.

Chicken Pasta Salad

Ingredients:

1/2 cup	**Fat-free mayonnaise**
3 tbsp	**Low-sodium soy sauce**
2 tbsp	**Sherry**
1/8 tsp	**Ground ginger**
1/4 tsp	**Pepper**
1 cup	**Cooked spiral pasta, drained**
2 cups	**Cooked boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into bite-sized pieces**
2 cups	**Fresh snow peas, strings removed and blanched**
2	**Green onions, sliced**
1/2 cup	**Water chestnuts, sliced**
1/4 cup	**Toasted almonds, for garnish**

Directions

1. In a small bowl combine the mayonnaise, soy sauce, sherry, ground ginger, and pepper. Set aside. In a separate bowl combine pasta chicken, snow peas, green onions, and water chestnuts and toss with dressing mix. Refrigerate overnight. Sprinkle with toasted almonds before serving.

Nutritional analysis per serving (one cookie):

calories: 132
protein: 13.3g
fat: 3.2g
carbohydrates: 11.1g

Northern

Mukash out of hospital

"I'm back in the swing of things, I'm slowly going back to work," Cree Grand Chief Matthew Mukash said after a recent two-week stay in a Montreal hospital. His health is now fine, he claimed, despite the extended hospital stay for internal bleeding due to an ulcer.

"I know that people were concerned, but as the doctor told me it wasn't a life-threatening incident, it was a matter of finding where I was bleeding internally. By the time they found it, it was already closed up. It was healed," he said.

Mukash says he's slowly getting his stamina back, but that he's still not attending very many meetings.

"I lost some weight after I went to see a nutritionist to show me how to eat right. Basically it's a whole new start for me because I was quite sick in the spring. I was feeling arthritis and my joints were really hurting because of the medication I was taking for the pain. The combination of medications didn't go well together and it irritated my intestines and that's what gave me an ulcer."

He added that he "won't take those pills again."

The Grand Chief promised to take care of his health and eat the right foods to rebuild. The medication was destroying the lining in his intestines so he must be careful to eat well for the next few months.

"I won't be able to eat raw vegetables," he explained. "Fish is okay and meat is okay, all the basic foods we eat in Cree territory, as long as I'm careful with drinks or foods that are acidic. It's important to control the acidity in my intestines."

Mukash received calls, gifts and flowers from well-wishers and was told that many people in Eeyou Istchee were praying for his return to health.

"I wanted to thank the people for their support," he said. "Prayers are the strongest medicine. I truly believe that. Having people pray for me helped me to regain my health."

Mukash also said that he is trying, at least in the short term, to slow his hectic schedule down. So for now he will be sending Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff and Political Attaché Donnie Nicholls to various meetings on his behalf.

"I have to try not to overexert myself," he said.

Fontaine reelected as AFN Chief

To no one's surprise, incumbent National Chief Phil Fontaine has been re-elected to lead the Assembly of First Nations in an election on July 12. Fontaine defeated B.C.'s Bill Wilson by a 373 to 117 vote, capturing 76 per cent of the 490 votes cast for another three-year term.

During the past three years Fontaine negotiated the Residential Schools compensation package for $1.9-billion. He also negotiated and signed the $5 billion Kelowna Accord with the Liberals to upgrade housing, drinking water and other infrastructure on Canada's reserves. The election of Stephen Harper's Conservative Party last January has put an end to that accomplishment, however.

In his electoral challenge, Wilson accused Fontaine of being too close to the Liberals and vowed that he would change the way the AFN Chief deals with all of Canada's political parties.

Fontaine, from the Sagkeeng First Nation in Manitoba, was first elected as national chief in 1997. He was re-elected again in 2003.

Canada's 633 band chiefs are the only ones eligible to vote for the AFN National Chief.

photos by Will Nicholls

Firefighters were caught on camera putting out a blaze that started at 8PM on July 7 in Mistissini. Three school buses behind the band warehouse caught fire and were put out within an hour.

The cause was unknown and the suspected arson was still under investigation at press time.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS IN QUÉBEC CITY OF THE EXPERT PANEL ON SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR FIRST NATIONS

On May 31, 2006, the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, in collaboration with Phil Fontaine, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, announced the creation of an expert panel to advise on options for a regulatory framework to ensure safe drinking water in First Nations communities.

The panel is holding a series of public hearings across Canada to gather the views and suggestions of First Nations and other interested parties. The panel will hold a hearing in Québec as follows:

9:00 am
August 10 and August 11, 2006
Hilton Québec
1100 Blvd René-Lévesque East
Québec City

On August 11 there will be an open forum session, at which any organization or individual may speak. Written submissions may also be mailed to:

P.O. Box 28001
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Those who wish to provide their views may address any aspect of the following questions:

What should be regulated:

source water protection, training and certification of operators, drinking water quality, effluents, treatment, testing, wells, health protection, emergency preparedness, plant and system design, other aspects? What standards should be used?

What legal framework should be used:

First Nations, federal, provincial, territorial – and what roles should various governments play in implementation?

If you wish to participate in the open forum, or would like more information on the work of the panel, please visit its website at **www.eps-sdw.gc.ca**. You may also contact the Secretary of the panel, Catharine Lyons-King, at **1-866-677-2635**.

Canada

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used by the Innu to go up to their forest lands and occupy their traditional homelands, that meant they were cut off from their traditional territory."

He talked about revenue sharing in development on traditional Innu land and said that it would be a good proposition for all sides.

"The Innu, like the Crees and the Inuit over the years, have become more sophisticated business-wise. They're better managers and they've begun to think more what they can do with that amount of money and they have an economic strategy. So I think we're looking at a number of options at this point."

The $11 billion number, he said, is considered a conservative one.

"The Crees got $250 million in 1975 and it was worth about $500 million in 1998 when revised with the cost of living and increases (when the original lawsuit was filed). There was no study done in 1998 to arrive at an amount at that time, but we do have a study now by two independent economists and they tell us $11 billion is a conservative figure."

The Grand Council of the Crees is supportive. "Of course we sympathize with the Innu," said Executive Director Bill Namagoose. "They haven't been getting compensated for any development that's been happening in their territory and they're entitled to it. We support them in that aspect."

Namagoose also said that there is Cree territory within the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement that overlaps into other First Nations territory, but they are ready to cooperate and negotiate.

"We've always been in a position to cooperate, but the onus is on the First Nation and Quebec to begin those negotiations," he said. "The Cree would merely be a third or fourth party. We would just protect the Crees' interest. We've already recognized overlaps with the Algonquin and are negotiating right now with the Inuit."

"They haven't been getting compensated for any development that's been happening in their territory and they're entitled to it"

Neither the provincial or federal offices of Indian Affairs would comment at length.

"We are going to wait until the case is presented before the courts to comment," said Margot Geduld, Media Liaison for Quebec Indian Affairs. "We certainly respect the rights of Aboriginals to go before the courts, but we prefer that these things be negotiated out instead of a court situation."

"The lesson there is that you can't get a treaty or a major settlement for First Nations in Quebec without major litigation"

"If it's before the courts it's difficult to comment on that," said Kevin Dobie, a spokesperson for federal Indian Affairs. "And if it's even before going to the courts it's even more difficult. However we would just reiterate our willingness to negotiate and recall the fact that in 2004 Chief Picard signed the agreement-in-principle. It covers, among other things, self government and within that agreement there are stipulations for compensation for these kinds of projects."

Although Picard signed that AIP, it has not been ratified as a full treaty at present.

"One thing we have to remember, and most politicians forget that the two agreements signed with the Cree are out-of-court settlements," said Binette. "The lesson there is that you can't get a treaty or a major settlement for First Nations in Quebec without major litigation."

Binette also mentioned that the Innu are becoming more self-sustaining with each passing day. They recently signed a joint-development agreement with Ontario wind energy company Northland Power and are hoping to get into the business of producing and selling the alternative energy source by 2010.

The Innu don't oppose future development on their land, but stressed that they need to be consulted.

"What the Innu want is to change the nature of that development," said Binette. "If you're talking forestry, for instance, they want much stronger environmental protection and they obviously want a greater say in decisions regarding development so that would probably mean a decrease in logging."

feature

FROM THE MEAN STREETS TO THE RECORDING STUDIO

Hip Hopper Daybi's future looks bright

photos by Ernest Webb and story by Amy German

He may be a man of humble origins, but for rapper, award-winning producer, emcee, director, editor, and graphic designer Daybi, things are just beginning to heat up. *The Nation* caught up with him earlier this year to see what kinds of hot projects he has on the burner, what it takes to be such a multifaceted artist and how he got there.

He set up shop in Montreal after moving from Kahnawake last year and since then he has been enjoying his anonymity. "I am still very low profile here, which I love, being able to just keep to myself," he says.

Even in his youth, Daybi showed signs of creativity. His first role model was his father: "I used to sit and watch him draw and then I got into drawing myself."

It was not until his teens that he began to find his voice, "I started rapping in about '93," he says. But at "17 is when I would say that I got really turned onto hip hop culture." That's when he started listening to bands like Aceyalone, Mikah 9, Freestyle Fellowship, and CPE.

His first interest in hip hop veered more towards the gangsta rap element. Ironically, music was both his downfall and his salvation.

"I started getting involved in street gangs in Vancouver and doing crime," Daybi recounts. "You know, kids get into that thing. It sounds really kinda cliché about hip hop, but it was actually getting more into hip hop that pulled me away from all of that trouble."

Thankful that his family moved him from Winnipeg to Vancouver just when he was becoming involved in gangs, Daybi can ultimately relate to the strong hold that gangsta rap can have on Canada's youth, particularly on adolescents and young teens.

"Yeah they end up believing it," he notes. "I think that's a problem. I think Canada's Natives want to emulate what they see; they want to believe that they are 50 Cent and live the lifestyle. I think that a problem that a lot of kids have is that their life is dictated by the type of entertainment they watch."

From there Daybi was inspired to do something different, though "by no means do I think that I am this great role model. I'm trying to be successful for them [his fans], be honest and know that it's okay to be successful and be honest."

Ultimately he believes that the world over is about to see a shift in hip-hop culture, inspired by the likes of artists such as Kanye West who discourage violence in their lyric writing.

"People [hip-hop artists] are starting to really realize the impact that they have on culture, on people's lives," he says. "I don't believe that violence happens because of this music but I think it definitely influences attitude and general respect for other people."

Daybi's last commercial venture in the recording industry was as a member of Slangblossom. Their

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NATIONAL CREE GATHERING

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album didn't achieve the commercial success he had hoped for, however. "I think Slangblossom unfortunately just didn't get the push it needed but there is a definite shift between it and my solo stuff."

He describes his latest work as "more mature" and perhaps "more what I guess a record label is looking for." Despite his previous label's inability to push Slangblossom, by no means does he look back in anger as were it not for that he would not be where he is now.

Still, Daybi feels the need to get more success under his belt before he veers back towards making less commercial music. "I have not established myself as an artist yet," he explains.

His latest work, which is still not on store shelves yet, has ultimately been influenced by his origins. "Just being Native, in my experience, it always resonates in my music," he says in reference to a track called "Getting Back" that will probably be the single of his new album.

The song is about "people getting together, kicking back, our respect for nature and how it's being taken away from us."

Despite his grim nature as a music writer, his latest endeavor "is not as dark and gritty like Slangblossom is."

With his new album he seems to be looking to create something that is more universal but with his own flavour.

"I thought this album was more up tempo, you can dance to it, and obviously there are some darker tracks on the album."

For his new album, Daybi hooked up with Montreal recording label Bombay Records. "I was really kind of aching to do a project with them," he says.

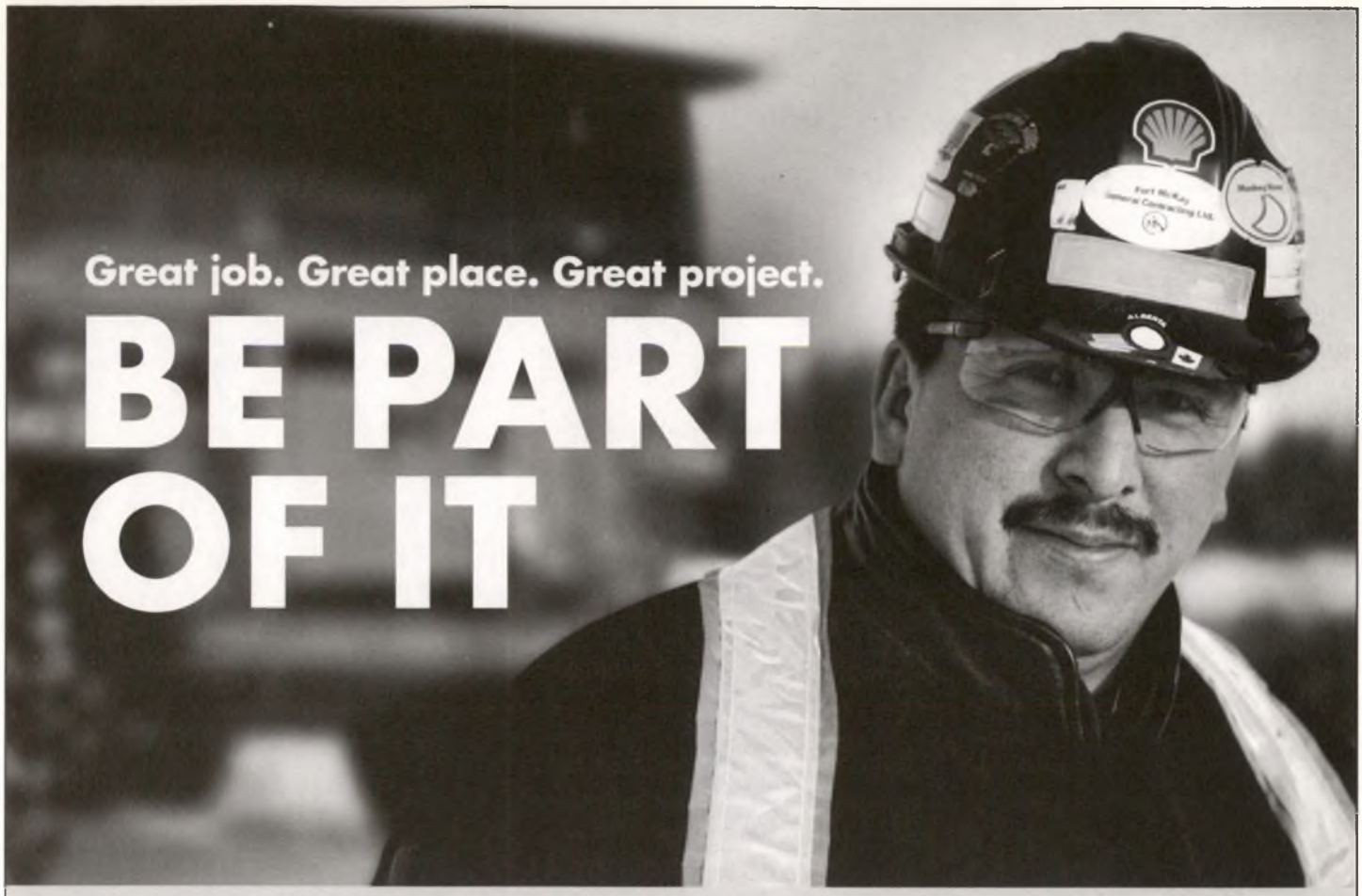
Bombay is a better choice, Daybi explains, because "they have distribution, they're with Kotch, and they're probably the biggest distributors of hip hop. There are so many positive things that are happening for them right now."

He speaks with excitement for his upcoming album release and his working relationship with Bombay. "It's going to be way more exposure than Slangblossom for sure," he enthuses. "The label, that is the thing with them, they have marketing money and they want to market. They are behind the project 110 per cent."

While Daybi was still in the process of recording new tracks and selecting works for the new album at the time of this interview, he has bright visions for the future.

"We are definitely doing at least doing one video for now," to promote his new album and plans to tour extensively once the album is released.

For more information on Daybi surf to http://daybi.us/



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Manitau's traditional inspiration

Richard Bosum looks to music to pass on Cree culture

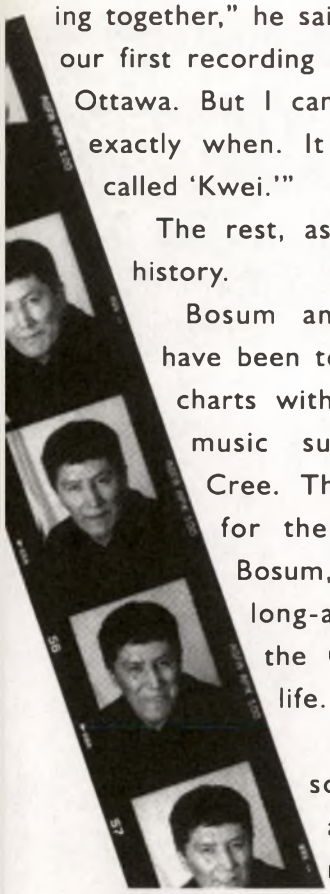
by Steve Bonspiel

From singers to dancers, to painters and sculptors, musical talent is in abundance in Eeyou Istchee. One of the more famous musical duos in Cree territory is Richard Bosum and Kenny Mianscum, also known as Manitau.

"I got my first guitar way back in my teens," Richard Bosum, 42, told the Nation. "It was a black 12-string Ibanez guitar. This guy offered me a great deal. He was asking $75. So I went prospecting with my late father and I made enough to buy it.

"I made a song and Kenny was interested in us doing the recording together," he said. "That was our first recording in the 90s in Ottawa. But I can't remember exactly when. It was a song called 'Kwei.'"

The rest, as they say, is history.



Bosum and Mianscum have been tearing up the charts with their folksy music sung only in Cree. The inspiration for the songs, said Bosum, comes from long-ago tales of the Cree way of life.

"A lot of the songs I write are from stories from my late father or my grandfather," he said. "Their stories of the old days inspire me and people seem to like them."

Bosum currently works as the maintenance man at the Waapihtiiwewan School in Oujé-Bougoumou. His job enables him to pass on his musical knowledge to the youngsters.

"Right now I'm trying to teach the kids to play guitar. I give lessons after school to kids from age 7 to 12. It's going pretty good but they complain that the guitar is way too big for them," he laughed.

Mianscum, an OJ band councilor, was unavailable for comment.

"At the beginning we used to do copyrighted music, but we stopped because we started to write our own stuff," said Bosum, who also added that of the four full albums they have collaborated on, they have split the songwriting right down the middle. Their fourth album, as yet unnamed and unfinished, will be released in November or December of this year.

"We play acoustic guitars and once in awhile I'll play the bass guitar and smaller instruments like the harmonica or traditional drum," said Bosum, who also supplies backup vocals when Mianscum is singing.

Two years ago Peter Mianscum was added to the band. He brought his expertise with the percussions, the traditional drum and the shakers, said Bosum.

Bosum said he is surprised by the band's success. "I don't know how it happened. We just got together once a month and started to try out new stuff with our music. From there we would practice the same song every two weeks. Once we got it, if we liked it we would leave it like that."

He said that many sacrifices come with being a musician. "Like leaving my work behind when I'm wanted somewhere else," he observed. "My music is really important and I want to make sure the people don't lose our Cree

continued on page 19

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Kahnawake Powwow a success

photos by Danielle Valade and story by Steve Bonspiel

The powwow attracts over 20,000 visitors annually and is Kahnawake's partial solution to the 1990 Oka crisis.

It started the summer after the Mayor of Oka's failed attempt to raze Kanesatake's cemetery and expand his nine-hole hold course onto Native land. The resulting 78-day standoff created a lot of bad blood on both sides of the lines and this celebration of Native dance and traditional eats is a way of healing and getting people together, Native or not.

The weather was very accommodating as well. Since its inception, the powwow has been hit by rain on at least one of the two days, but this year saw beautiful blue skies and hot sunny weather. Those who were lucky enough to have a pool got the most out of it powwow weekend.

The Kahnawake powwow also marks the halfway point of the powwow season. Weary powwow trail followers can now see an end in sight, but still have plenty of Indian tacos and bison burgers to wolf down along the way.

Great weather, food make K

The 15th annual Echoes of a Proud Nation powwow, otherwise known as the Kahnawake Powwow, got off to a rather hurried start.

The mad dash on an empty stomach from the parking lot of Kahnawake's Tekakwitha Island, where the powwow is held, to the food stands was scary to say the least. Zigging and zagging though happily fed Natives and non-natives alike was not an easy task.

At one point, this reporter had to stop and start like a running back with the Denver Broncos, head fake an elder and make a rapid beeline to the walleye nuggets and moose burgers.

After being contented by a newly acquired full stomach, a quick glance to the left revealed the leader of the Grand Council of the Crees, Mathew Mukash.

"It's a celebration of life and history," said Grand Chief Mukash of the powwow. "It's a gathering of people of different nations to come share their gifts. It's an expression of sharing," said Mukash who admitted to attending his first Kahnawake powwow this year.

It was strange how few Crees there were. Aside from Roderick Rabbitskin of CBC North and his two family members, nary a Cree-ture was stirring.

ONE NIGHT IN EEYOU ISTCHEE...
SUE, I LOVE YOU. I WANT YOU SO BAD... LET'S MAKE LOVE!
IF I SAY NO, I'LL LOSE JOE... HE WILL LEAVE ME FOR ANOTHER GIRL!
JOE, NO...I AM NOT READY FOR THIS, AND WE HAVE NO CONDOM. WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT...
OK, BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE ME WAIT FOREVER! WE HAVE BEEN GOING OUT FOR 2 MONTHS ALREADY!
THE NEXT DAY...
MOM, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
LAST NIGHT, WHEN I WAS WITH JOE... I FELT UNCOMFORTABLE AND CONFUSED... JOE IS READY TO HAVE SEX, BUT NOT ME!
WHAT CAN I DO?
I AM GLAD THAT YOU ARE SHARING THIS WITH ME.
I'M PROUD OF YOU. IT TAKES COURAGE TO DO WHAT YOU DID.
WHEN YOU ARE BOTH READY I WANT YOU TO BE PREPARED SO IT WILL BE A BEAUTIFUL EXPERIENCE.
I LOVE YOU HONEY. COME SIT WITH ME. LET'S TALK SOME MORE...
IF YOU NEED CONDOMS, WE HAVE SOME HERE, IN THE HOUSE. WE CAN ALSO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT AT THE CLINIC FOR CONTRACEPTION.
NEXT WEEK...
JOE, YOU KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU - BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE A MOM RIGHT NOW! BEFORE WE MAKE LOVE, LET'S BOTH BE READY AND WELL-PREPARED.
I'M NOT READY TO BE A FATHER EITHER! SUE, I LOVE YOU TOO AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO FEEL PRESSURED. WE CAN WAIT.

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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

continued from page 14

language. So it will always exist."

"There is all kinds of talent here. You can see that they are really good"

Bosum said his inspiration – and love for the acoustic guitar, of which he has five – came from a Canadian. "People ask us about the songs we perform and tell us that some of them are really emotional and they love it. I listened a lot to Neil Young. That's how I started to make my music acoustically. His music really influenced me."

He sees a bright future musically in Eeyou Istchee.

"There is all kinds of talent here. You can see that they are really good. They do a lot of copyrighted songs, but Kenny and I are trying to encourage them to write their own songs. If they want, they can go pretty far because a lot of them do know how to sing, but I haven't seen many playing instruments."

The duo's musical success has taken them to each community numerous times as well as secured them a spot in the CBC's True North Concert Series each year. They even went as far as Expo 2000 in Germany. "Germany was nice, we had fun," said Bosum, who joined a team of 14 James Bay Cree performers, storytellers, and experts in traditional Cree culture.

Bosum, who is a self-taught guitarist and singer, says Cree youth can excel in whatever it is they choose to do. "I want to encourage them to keep trying until they reach their goals," said Bosum.

His own kids used to play guitar, but have since moved away for work. At home, his remaining fan is his two-year-old daughter, Tiffany, an aspiring musician in her own right. "She has her own guitar and her own congos too," he chuckled.

"My music is really important and I want to make sure the people don't lose our Cree language. So it will always exist"

The Nation

Cover date on magazine	Volume & Issue No.	Deadline to receive ad material
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August 18	13-20	August 4
September 1	13-21	August 18
September 15	13-22	September 1
September 29	13-23	September 15
October 13	13-24	September 29
October 27	13-25	October 13
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Aglukark's Blood is Earth Red

by Amy German

Musician, activist and public speaker Susan Aglukark has just signed with the Winnipeg-based Aboriginal record label Arbor Records, which on Aug. 8 will release her sixth album, *Blood Red Earth*.

Aglukark, who sings in a melange of Inuktitut and English, has sold over 400,000 albums in Canada to date. She will tour to promote the album while continuing her activist work. On canvases of contemporary pop, the artist weaves tales of her people and addresses many of the issues that they face today.

Her origins in Canada's Arctic play an enormous role in Susan's creative work and are the inspiration of her song-smithing, activism and motivational speaking.

Aglukark received the Order of Canada in September of last year for her music as well as for her work as a mentor, a motivational speaker and workshop facilitator. She has also won three Junos and been nominated for six more.

Her latest endeavour will be released in the US via Allegro Corporation in October and released for international download through the IODA, a digital distribution company for the global independent music community.

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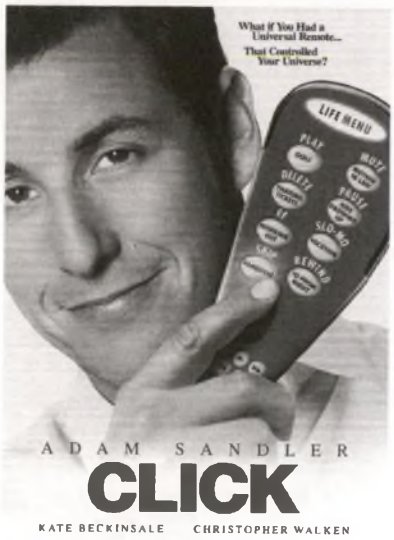
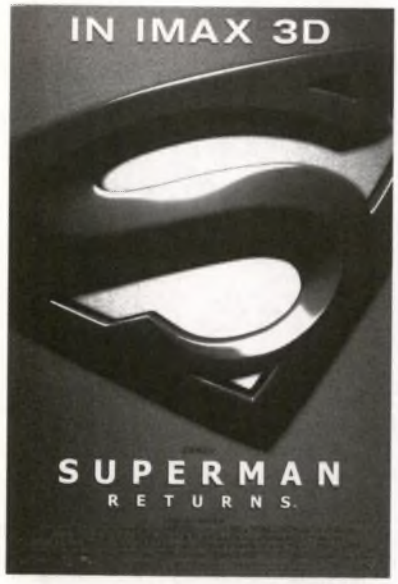
SCREEN SHOTS

Summer Movie Lineup – July

by The Shadow Critics



Click – This comedy was a surprise for the summer offerings. I say surprise, as I thought like other comedy offerings we might have seen all the really entertaining scenes in the previews. The truth is there are many more entertaining and humorous scenes in the movie. Adam Sandler and the cast do a good job of telling a story about a man who discovers the importance of being around for the small things in life. It is in the moments between the ones that we wait for that life really happens. So, while the plot is about a universal remote control that actually controls the universe around the holder, the underlying plot is about people who do not take the time to appreciate what they have in life.



Superman Returns – I waited in line for the IMAX 3-D version of this new release. It was well worth the time, as even the previews were in 3-D. The movie flashes a green image of glasses on the screen when the audience is supposed to put on the 3-D glasses, and a red image when the audience should take them off. During the scenes in the movie when the 3-D action was occurring, the special effects were cool. This added feature made the movie experience even more entertaining. The plot of Superman returning after a five-year absence left the writers with much latitude to fill in gaps and time. Superman does battle with Lex Luther once again, and he is still trying to figure out his relationship with Lois Lane, but there are a few new complications. Overall, the plot is not extremely complex, and the character development is scant. There will be a point in the movie when you wonder how Superman manages to block out his aversion to kryptonite. However, with the 3-D special effects, this movie was worth the price of admission.

The Devil Wears Prada – Anne Hathaway plays a fashion-challenged assistant to the legendary editor of a fashion magazine (Meryl Streep). Hathaway tries to be the best assistant possible, and learns to love the world of fashion. Unfortunately, her friends and boyfriend do not want her to change so do little to support her, and the scenes where she genuinely likes what she is doing only feeds into a part of the plot which is never further developed. The movie could have easily taken the audience into another direction that would have been as enjoyable and entertaining. However, the basic plot of the movie is about her boss, aka "the devil in Prada," not liking to acknowledge anything she does right. Meryl Streep does an amazing job in the role, as does the rest of the cast, perhaps with the exception of the weakly developed roles of the friends and boyfriend. The movie does not suffer much its inadequacies, as it is still entertaining and the acting is done well.

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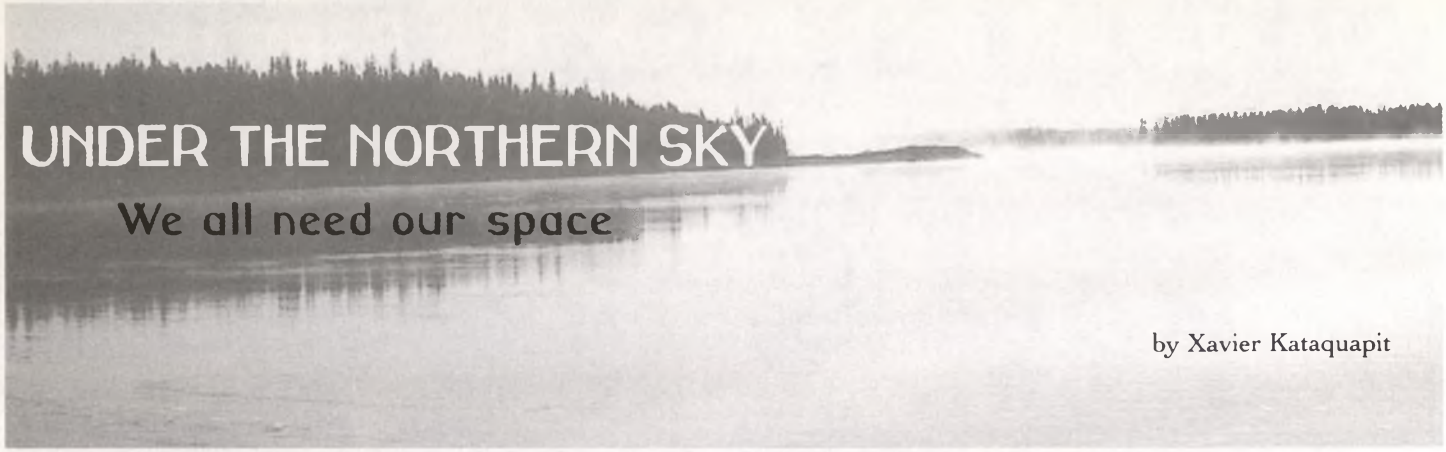

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

We all need our space

by Xavier Kataquapit

I never had a lot of privacy when I was growing up. Privacy wasn't always possible in a crowded three-bedroom home with eight siblings and two parents.

Sufficient and adequate housing on First Nations is a problem. People are happy merely to find any place to call a home for their family.

At a very young age, I remember having to share a large single room with five other brothers. We all slept relatively comfortably, on two large bunkbeds and a wide queen-sized bed. These beds filled the room and there was no space that we could call our own. We shared the room and everything in it.

As the years progressed, we left home, one by one, to attend high school. That meant that there was a little more room in the house. This did make our living environment a bit better but in a large family, I was always sharing my space with many and there were the constant visitors coming and going. At one point, our family did grow smaller when older members moved out to marry and start their own families.

We had it better than most people did in Attawapiskat in that we always lived in warm and cozy homes. Still there really was not much privacy to speak of. It seemed just normal to me and to everyone else in our home that everything was to be shared and that was all there was to it. I never felt as though I actually owned anything. I guess in a way it was like living in a commune. In addition, people were always in a state of excitement and chaos. There seldom seemed to be any moment of calm or peace.

From a young age, I never seemed to be able to find time to myself. I found myself leaving home often to be with friends to escape the confines of home. School was a refuge because it provided some privacy and individuality in the form of having my own desk with my own little possessions. I also looked forward to attending church services because it was a time and place where I could be with others in moments of silence and calm.

When I was a teenager, I worked at trying to keep some time to myself and even some form of privacy. I enjoyed spending quiet lonely evenings by the water to just listen to the night sounds of animals and birds. I felt a sense of relief in being able to ride away on my snowmobile to the opposite bank of the river to watch the lights of Attawapiskat from a peaceful vantage point.

At times, when everyone was out, I found it relaxing to just sit at home in silence without the blaring of a radio, the sound of the TV or the noise of a dozen people in the house. I seemed to be always trying to find a quiet place to read a good book.

I enjoy being quiet now and the private time I create for myself is very important to me. The work that I do as a writer involves me with many people on an ongoing basis so it is really critical for me to have some privacy and do things I want to do for myself.

I have also learned to respect the privacy of others. A friend of mine has a saying – "If you want to have good relations with your neighbours don't get too close to them."

This doesn't mean to ignore them completely, as it is important to be good to your neighbours and to be there to help when they need it. However, it is a good idea to let people be and live their lives in peace.

I find that this way of living is very healthy and respects people's space. This results in the best relationships with neighbours and friends. At this point I would never think of just dropping into a person's home if I did not know them very, very well. I appreciate when people recognize that I like my privacy and give me some space.

Privacy is also a big issue these days in our modern world. We live in a time where our personal lives are continually surveyed by government and business. We are more and more becoming mere numbers and statistics. It seems harder and harder to have any privacy at all.

I guess it is necessary to take a stand once in a while in my quest for privacy. In the long run when I manage to enjoy time by myself it just makes it better when I see family and friends and I share a meal or visit with them.

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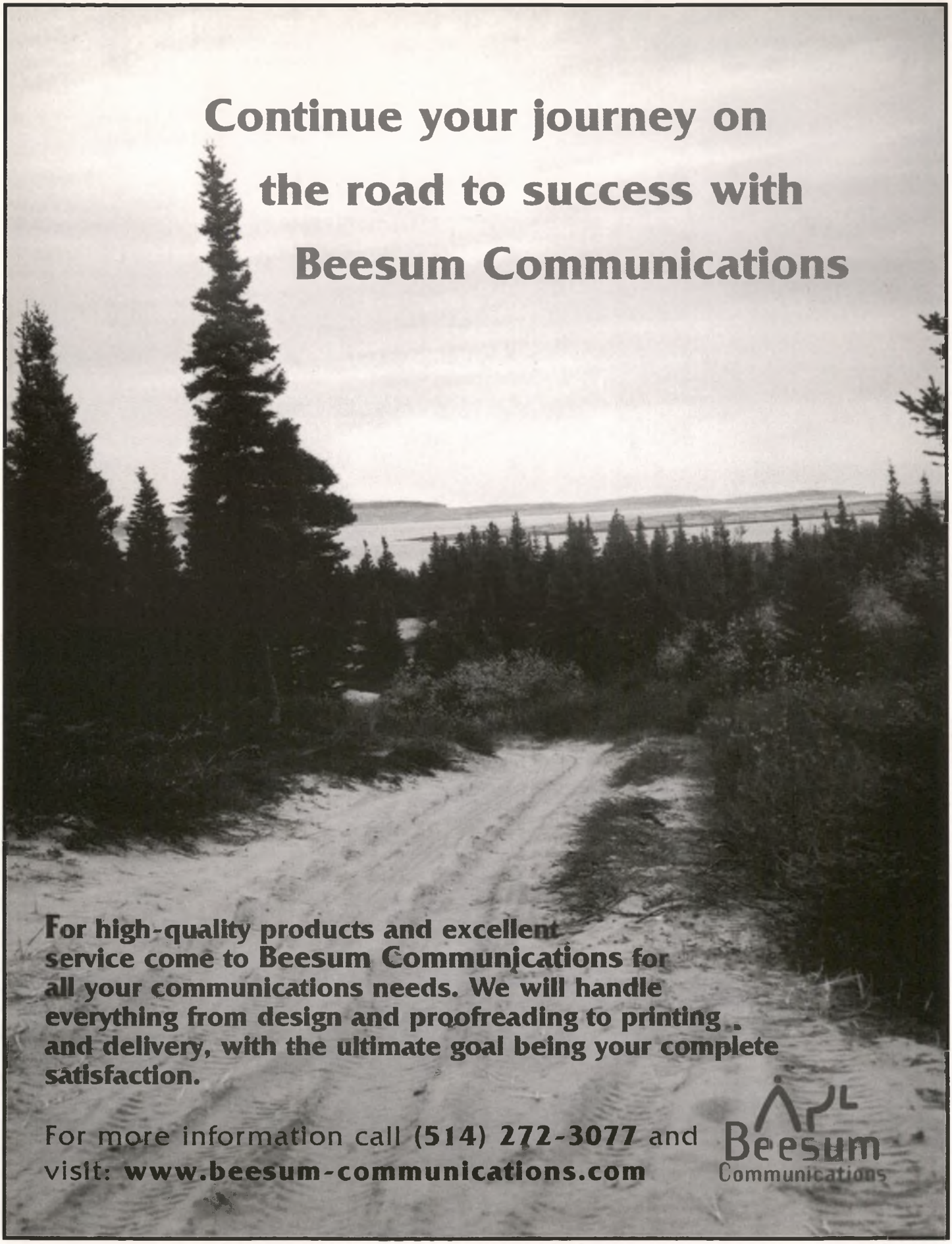
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BIRTHS – 100

Sasha-Paige Latonya Harmony Snowboy was born on June 2nd 2006 at 2:23 pm in Rouyn Noranda. Congratulations to Greta-Marie Snowboy and James Chriskamish on their baby girl. Take care of that precious little angel; she will bring you both so much joy and happiness. God bless her! Fr: Jennifer and Eric (Chis)

ANNIVERSARIES

Wishing my Godparents, BETH & GERALD LONGCHAP a Happy 8th Anniversary on July 17th, 2006. Love Always Your Goddaughter, SKY MATOUSH

BIRTHDAYS

James Robert Henri Etapp. A year ago you were so small and sweet. Now that we are celebrating your 1st birthday it is so wonderful. I love you so much, you are my sunshine on a rainy day and I enjoy your company a lot. You are a very special boy and that I love you from the top of your head to the bottom of your stinky little toes. Xoxoxoxoxo Stephanie.

I would like to wish a Happy 14th Birthday to my cousin Nikita Loon on July 15. Enjoy your day! From your cousin Merissa Voyageur Shecapio Coon

I would like to wish my little sister Semera Coon a Happy 1st Birthday on July 26, 2006. I love u so much, have a wonderful birthday from: your sis Merissa Voyageur.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to a very special beautiful girl who's turning 6 years old. Our daughter Angel will be celebrating her birthday on July 13, 2006. We wish you the best and enjoy your special day. Once again happy birthday and many more to come. We love you so much. Oh and congratulations on your Kindergarten graduation. Hey, your going to be grade one. Time sure goes by fast. We are so pround of you. We love you so so so much. Enjoy you special day. Love always from Mommy (Pamela), Daddy (Lanny) and your brother Mario Gilpin. Xoxoxo

Happy birthday to our Auntie Greta Snowboy an July 16, 2006. Happy B-Day 'Eshgo' and many more to come. Have fun! We love you! From your niece Jade and Nephew Eric.

Happy birthday to our cousin Aiden Rupert on July 24,2006 we love you so much. have a nice day on your special day from all your lil cousins Derial and Ashton Rupert and Kyran Rupert Snowboy

Happy Birthday to Tanisha Kawapit On July 21,2006 have fun on your b-day from Suzie, Derial and Ashton Rupert

Happy 8th birthday to my first nephew Aiden Rupert On July 24,2006 we wish you many more birthdays we love you so much your Auntie Suzie

I would like to say Happy 2? Birthday to my brother Jean-Paul Iserhoff on July 12. Also to my lil brother Benoit Blacksmith, the baby of the family will be celebrating his birtday on July 17. Sorry boys we couldn\'t be there on your birthdays but may you both enjoy your special day. Luv you both so much..Miss ya Guys! From your only sister Pat, your niece Trinity and Harry

GRADUATION – 104

We would like to congratulate our daughter Joy Shecapio Blacksmith on her graduation at Canadore College on June 2-06. We are so proud of you, so continue to follow your dreams. You did it once, you can do it again and again. Be who you want to be. Martin Luther king once said '' I have a dream too, I can see you fly a chopper, but of course it will have to be your decission. So once again Congratulations for a job well done. We love you and take good care of your boys. They're sweet little guys, makes life worth living for. With love & joy: Mom & Dad, John & Mary, Shecapio Blacksmith.

PERSONAL – 300

I am looking for my adopted Brother who was possibly born in Chibougamau, Quebec, Canada. He was given the name by Micheal Bosum born on May 8, 1968, Micheal Would be 38 years old as of today. His name was

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The deadline for nomination is September 8, 2006.

For more information, visit our web site at www.naaf.ca or call 1.800.329.9780

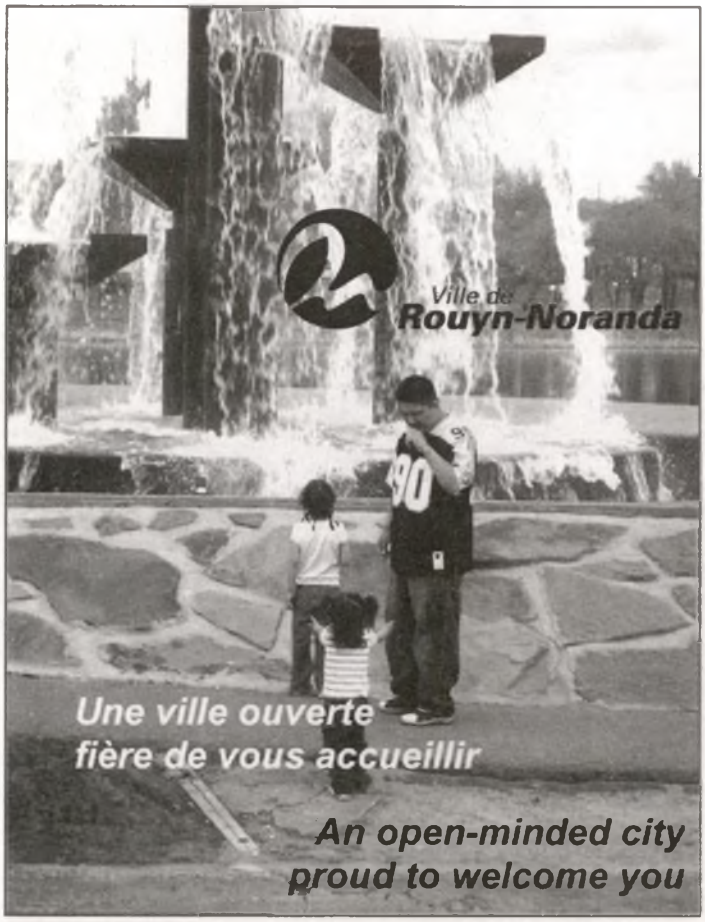
probably changed to what? I don't know but I am in search of my adopted brother. Please email me back. Please help in search of my brother forwarding this message to friends and family that may be adopted and who are at that age? Or even born that day!! Thank you and may the Good Lord Bless you. (eenou@hotmail.com)

Apartment for rent! 2-bedroom apartment to sublet in Hull, 'Plateau' area, available now until January 1st, 2007 (Lease to renew). I will also leave, for a good price$$, washer/dryer, stove/fridge, kitchen table and chairs. If interested, call (418) 923-2028.

Public Service Announcements – 400

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal now has a 1-800 number. You can now reach us toll-free at: 1-866-403-4688. Please check out the new website at: HYPERLINK "http://www.nwsm.info" www.nwsm.info and feel free to give us any feedback.

Do you need help? Someone to talk to? Call the Kid's Help Phone's toll-free number, at: 1-800-668-6868 or check out their website at: www.kidshelp.sympatico.ca.



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Cree Nation Firefighter Challenge Ouje-Bougoumou 2006

August 4th and 5th in Oujé-Bougoumou

Exciting competition on both days

August 4th - A concert will be held with performances by Richard Bosum and others.

August 5th – Closing ceremonies
6 pm. Banquet. Prizes, raffles, etc.

Information: 418-745-2576

Niskamoon Corporation Fisheries and Health

About our Projects

The Namess Fund is used to restore and strengthen Cree fisheries and to provide funding for Monitoring and Research Programs that address issues related to the impact of mercury contamination on both human health and the environment. Examples of projects completed under the Namess Fund include:
Genawmee Traditional Educational Fishing, Camp, Wemindji Coastal Fishing Program, Mistassini Lake Fish Study, Awashish Outdoor Adventures: Marketing Activities, Waswanipi Cultural Fishing Project

Our current priority is the Fishery Restoration and Development Program. In order to balance fisheries resources management issues to the limited financial resources available, the following criteria must be met if a project is to be considered eligible for funding under this program:
Self-sustaining project, Community involvement, Employment growth, Respect and promotion of traditional values, Increasing health benefits through fish consumption, Involvement of youth

Additional information about this and other programs as well as complete project description are available on our website at www.niskamoon.org

Working Together

To restore and develop Cree fisheries, we need your participation. Please submit proposals to the Local Coordinator in your community. Here are a few project ideas:
Assessment of potential harvestable fish stocks; Monitoring harvested fish stocks by the Cree; Infrastructure for fish harvesting , process, storage and transportation;
Feasibility of commercial fisheries;
Sport fishing marketing; and
Mitigating and remedial measures aimed at restoring subsistence fisheries.

Contact Us

For more information about proposal guidelines, the schedule of board meetings or any other questions, please contact your local coordinator or visit our website at :
www.niskamoon.org

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